schoolmasters may go and gather children into their schools. Teachers require some incentive of this kind.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Is it the rule of the department that in Malayalam Primary schools no English can be taught, and if English is taught, fees should be levied from the students? I see no reason in that rule. We can impart a little English education in such schools. When we teach both, why do we levy fees from the students?

Mr. C. MATTHAI (*Director of Public Instruction*).

As I have already explained, there are two sorts of schools—English and Malayalam. English schools are meant for the well-to-do classes who can afford to pay fees.

Now, I come to the depressed classes.

The Depressed Classes.—

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

Can an official member take additional time?

President.—He has to reply to the criticisms levelled against his department. Mr. Matthai may proceed.

Mr. C. MATTHAI (*Director of Public Instruction*).

We were spending largely on the education of the depressed classes. The grant of Rs. 7,000 does not represent all that we do for the depressed classes. It represents only the grant for books, clothes, slates, etc. We do not levy any fees from them even in English schools. Now, we are feeding them only once in a week. Formerly, we were feeding them every day. But this sort of expenditure was difficult to check. Bills were sent in for Rs. 100 and Rs. 200 a month from each school. As the expenditure was going out of bounds, it had to be stopped. For instance, a certain gentleman started three schools for Pulayas; one, he called, Rama Varma Memorial School, another, Vijayaraghava Chari Memorial School, and the third Davies Memorial School. He was drawing a monthly grant of about Rs. 400. Later on, we discovered he was making considerable investments in property as a result of his philanthropy.

President.—The member has exceeded his time. Rule 48 of the Legislative Council Rules says that no

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member other than the Finance Member shall speak for more than 20 minutes.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

I am glad to enlighten this House with a few remarks on the several criticisms that have been made regarding the Medical Department. The outstanding criticism seems to be that the department is over-manned. The hon'ble doctor member made that remark saying that due regard must be had to the quality of the work and the efficiency of the department. There he has struck the right note, and if this standard is the criterion to judge by, then the department cannot be considered to be over-manned. I shall refer to the distribution of work among the Medical Officers. We have to begin with the Mofussil institutions, and start from there to the General Hospital and the Civil Hospital, the two big institutions. We have in all 10 hospitals and 15 dispensaries in the State, of which all but the General Hospital, Ernakulam, and the Civil Hospital, Trichur, and the two Special Hospitals for Women are manned by one Medical Officer in each institution. If we look at the institutions of corresponding status in Travancore, say, Tiruvella, Kottayam or Parur, we find that there are one Assistant Surgeon and one or two Sub-Assistant Surgeons in each.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

He must compare with corresponding institutions in British Malabar.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

Well, then, take Palghat where the hon'ble member hails from.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

He cannot compare Chittur with Palghat. If Chittur is in British territory, it would only be a dispensary. Palghat has a big hospital. Chittur and Kunnamkulam have only mere dispensaries.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

Anyway, in all these Mofussil institutions, we have only one man in each, and certainly we cannot have less than one man in each.

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There are two Hospitals for Women, having one Assistant Surgeon and two Sub-Assistant Surgeons in each. I introduced a system of day and night duty, and I have received complaints that on account of paucity of hands they find it impossible to carry on day and night duty as detailed by me, so that I have had to restrict it to the General Hospital, Ernakulam, and the Civil Hospital, Trichur. Coming to the General Hospital, the distribution of work among the staff is clearly given in the reply to the interpellation on the subject. As the out-patient attendance rose from a daily average of 200 to nearly 400, the staff had to be strengthened, and so I applied to Government and got the Lady Sub-Assistant Surgeon appointed to the women and children's department. As the average attendance increased, the staff had to be correspondingly increased for the sake of efficiency.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

The average attendance at the Chalakkudi Hospital is between 300 to 400.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

The quality of work in the General Hospital is better.

President.—The hon'ble member said the attendance is 300 to 400. Is it so?

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

It is something like 150 to 200 only. In the General Hospital one Medical Officer is in charge of a particular work, as detailed in the answer already furnished.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

Is there a special Microscopic Expert?

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

There is one man.

President.—Why? There is a Microscopic Expert. It is a fact.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

The man in charge of that department has also to treat persons bitten by rabid dogs. In the General

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Hospital there is ample work for the existing staff. If we look closely into the work, then it will be seen that it is under-manned.

Now, we come to X-ray. This has been referred to by more than one or two hon'ble members, and I am afraid that the remarks made by them might have led the House to think that after all X-ray is some trumpery thing, a curiosity or something like that.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

X-ray is a luxury.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

Some may think that it is a luxury, while, as a matter of fact, it is a necessity. In most progressive civilized places, there are X-ray installations. I consider it essential to have an X-ray installation here also. X-ray is a valuable aid to diagnosis and also in the treatment of certain diseases. And it is a most valuable addition in the General Hospital establishment.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON (*Vyttila*).

I ask the Hon'ble Member whether appendicitis could be diagnosed by this apparatus ?

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

Yes, by all means. Many in this House think that this is a luxury, especially when we are working with a deficit budget.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

At present, when we have very good means of communication, patients can go to Madras for treatment.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

When an improvement is suggested, you say that we got on without it all this time. That is not the way to look at the question.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

We got on without the Legislative Council.

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DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

The attendance at the Ophthalmic Hospital, when I took charge, numbered only 30 to 40. After eight months, the number increased to such an extent that it was found impossible to deal with the work adequately. So I applied to the Government to appoint an assistant to be in charge of he establishment. In Travancore, in the Ophthalmic Hospital, there are a Surgeon and one or two Sub-Assistant Surgeons. I have, under a new arrangement for the purchase of medical stores, effected a saving, under Medicine, of an amount of Rs. 10,000, and no special allotment was asked for getting the X-ray apparatus.

President.—Any word about the Leper Asylum?

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*)

As regards the Leper Asylum there has been a suggestion that we had better do away with the allotment for the Leper Asylum. It will shock the sentiments of the House if I were to describe the condition of the Vendurutti Leper Asylum. There are now 122 patients in the Leper Asylum. The amount budgetted is absolutely necessary for the purpose. In the Leper Asylum there is no separate Medical Officer to look after the patients. For all the patients there is only one Doctor, who attends on them only twice a week. A sum of Rs. 800, on an average, every month, is spent for feeding them. There are only a few servants, paid at the rate of Rs. 10, 8, 7 and 4, to attend on them. The servants themselves are able-bodied lepers. No special treatment is given to them for want of staff.

Mr. K. S. RAMA AYYAR (*Trippunittura*).

Has no place been selected for a Leper Asylum ?

President.—We have not finally decided about it. We hope to decide it soon.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

We have come to no decision on the point. I think Vendurutti is a most unsuitable place for a Leper Asylum.

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President.— Just a word, before we disperse. My departments, Land Revenue, Education and Medical, alone had the opportunity of replying to the criticisms, and I think it is necessary and but fair that, with regard to some other departments also, namely, Agriculture, Forest and Tramway,and Public Works, opportunities must be given to my officers to explain all the facts in connection with the working of their departments. I have to change the original allotment of work and to devote one hour more to-morrow for the general discussion of the budget. In the manipulation of time, I thought there would be time found for taking up resolutions, and consequently, we took up two resolutions yesterday. Had we confined ourselves mainly to the general discussion of the budget, we would have probably got through the general discussions to-day. I think all my Heads of Departments, Agriculture, Forest, Public Works Department, and probably, Excise, should be given an opportunity to place all facts in connection with the criticisms levelled against the working of the respective departments, for the information of the House. I, therefore, propose that, after the questions and answers are got through to-morrow, the first hour will be devoted for the general discussion. After that, we will take up our motions in regard to reductions.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*)

What about my resolution ?

President.—I forgot to tell you about it. I will give preference to your resolution. Your resolution will be taken up first.

It being 5 p. m., the Council adjourned, to meet again at 11-30 a. m. the next day.

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